



## Texas School for the Deaf Governing Board

### Minutes of September 21, 2007

#### 1. Call to Order

Jean Andrews, President, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Attending: Jean Andrews, President  
Walt Camenisch, Vice President  
Connie Sefcik-Kennedy, Secretary  
Beatrice Burke  
Nancy Carrizales  
Sha Cowan  
Angie Wolf

#### 2. Approval of Minutes from the August 10, 2007 Meeting

Walt Camenisch moved to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2007 Governing Board meeting. Connie Sefcik-Kennedy seconded. Motion passes.

#### 3. Audience speakers to Address the Board; Introduction of Visitors

None.

#### 4. Superintendent's Report

- A. Opening of School 2007-2008. Our theme for the year is Odyssey 08' DREAM. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE. We welcomed staff back with a Greek theme. Our presentation had interesting "Discovery Stops" of actual Greek sites, staff dressed as Gods and Goddesses, Greeks bearing gifts in the form of staff survival bags, "It's all Greek to Me Jeopardy" competitions and prophecies for the school year from the High Priestess Pythia! After our welcome back we served a Greek lunch of Moussaka, Greek Salad, Pita Bread, Tzatziki and Baklava. After enjoying lunch, staff participated in TEAM JAM hosted by Nick Bannon. During Team Jam, staff were randomly assigned to tables and participated in experiential teambuilding also including Greek activities like, Solve the Labyrinth, Pandora's Box, Ancient Greek Pyramids, Impress the Gods, etc. All had a great time!
- B. Student Enrollment. We are busy enrolling new students at a feverish pace in Admissions. We always get this backlog at the opening of school since all the districts start sending the paperwork at the same time when school opens. We plan to look for a better solution to this dilemma because it often creates ill will among the districts that want their students admitted the day they send the paper work. As of September 7, our enrollment was 440 students; 100 in Parent Infant through 5<sup>th</sup>, 72 in grades 6-8, 175 in grades 9-12, 71 in Special Needs and 22 Transitional. We ended last school year with a service load of 488 and I am sure we will reach that or higher by the end of the school year.



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- C. **Staffing Update.** We are working right now with two permanent subs, one in Middle School Science, Steve Baldwin and one in High School Math, Randal King. Both are certified deaf ed teachers so we are lucky to have them. Betty Bounds is filling the Associate Principal position in high school, for which we are immensely thankful. Our Textbooks and Materials Coordinator, Priscilla Farrell is retiring this month and we are re-assigning those duties to the librarians. We are still looking for a part-time audiologist and a contract Orientation and Mobility specialist.
- D. **Zachary Scott Theater.** We rented RL Davis Auditorium to Zachary Scott Theater for an encore performance of their summer hit, "High School Musical". This will give us significant revenue to apply to other important TSD needs and it has been excellent exposure for TSD to the Austin area community.
- E. **Mosdeux Filming.** We have a Deaf film company on campus shooting a TV pilot called "A Deaf Family." Two of our students have been cast and many of our community people are assisting in other crew roles. Bobbie Guerra's Impact Studio students will have the opportunity to be involved with the film crews and will do their own documentary on the making of a TV show. You may want to read more about this at <http://www.mosdeux.com>.
- F. **NWEA MAP Testing.** We are off and running with MAP. The NWEA folks trained our teachers and staff on August 23. Everyone is excited about the quality of information we will receive from this program. We have a three-week window in September to complete the testing and we are working full speed ahead on that. The technology staff, TLD staff and all the teachers and principals have been teaming together to make this program successful. It is very challenging since in each computer-testing environment after the first few questions each student is taking his or her own unique test. Of course none of this would happen without Joey Vaughan's outstanding leadership.
- G. **TEA -Supported Outreach.** This year we received from TEA \$368,041 in IDEA-Discretionary funding to support several ERCOD Outreach projects. These projects include a .75 FTE for state parent liaison, Communication Skills Workshops, Family Weekend Retreat and Latino Conference in McAllen (October 2008), Jason Project, and Technology Camp for Students. We really appreciate this partnership to improve statewide services to deaf and hard of hearing students.
- H. **Homecoming and Spike-Out.** An early homecoming has us all in rapid preparation mode. We are simultaneously hosting the Spike-Out Volleyball tournament for 10 schools! Our football team has two wins under their belt—we are thrilled about that! Plans are being finalized for the booths along the mall and things are moving along. It will be a great weekend and likely a hot one---good for water sales you are no doubt thinking.
- I. **CEASD Fall Board Meeting and NASDSE.** The CEASD Board meeting will be in Scottsdale in conjunction with the NASDSE annual conference. The NASDSE meeting will begin on Sunday, October 21 and end on Tuesday October 23. The board meeting(s) will be split in half. The first session will be on Sunday afternoon from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and the 2nd session will be Monday morning from 8:00 a.m. to Noon.



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J. Student Incidents. The student who was accused of the sexual assault off campus has not returned to school. We must proceed with an ARD for manifestation determination and subsequent expulsion hearing if appropriate. If we end up with no other option for the expulsion other than our DAEP and ALC, we will assign some kind of overnight coverage to ensure the safety of other students. (I am hopeful we will be able to make other arrangements.) FYI, we have a student in DAEP for a short time for purchasing a knife on her way home the weekend before last. Staff picked up on student conversation and the knife was confiscated. The student is new to us and we believe did not really intend to cause harm, but because the knife was 2 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches and home going is a school-sponsored event, it required expulsion proceedings.

K. Teacher Induction Grant. TSD received a \$41,550 Beginning Teacher Induction and Mentoring Grant. The grant allows for the assignment of a mentor teacher to each classroom teacher with less than two years teaching experience. A beginning teacher induction and mentoring program must be based on a research-based mentoring program that, through external evaluation, has demonstrated success in improving new teacher quality. Grant funds may be used for the following activities:

- mentor teacher stipends;
- scheduled time for mentor teachers to provide mentoring to assigned classroom teachers; and,
- mentoring support through providers of mentor training.

Johnett Scoggin and Leslie Hussey are responsible for TSD receiving this grant and will be monitoring its implementation.

L. District Improvement Plan. We have begun work on our DIP, which will implement the third year of our Strategic Plan: A Blueprint for Excellence. We will be developing Action Plans to implement our 07-08 priorities and will be focusing on such things as student performance with a special emphasis on MAP, PBS implementation and data collection, the establishment of a Career Center and improved transitional programming, career progressions for staff, and public image and community partnerships. We hope to have a draft plan ready for approval by the District Advisory Committee in October and we will keep you updated on our progress.

### 5. Policy Revisions

- FD Admissions (amend)
- FDC Admissions: Homeless Students (adopt)
- FNCI Student Conduct: Disruptions (review)
- FND Student Rights and Responsibilities: Married Students (amend)
- FNE Student Rights and Responsibilities: Pregnant Students (amend)
- FNF Student Rights and Responsibilities: Interrogations and Searches (amend)
- FO Student Discipline (amend)

On behalf of the committee, Beatrice Burke moves that the Board approve the policies FD, FND, FNE, FNF, FO as amended. I move the board adopt policy FDC and FNCI for review.

The motion passed.



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### 6. Professional Contracts for 2007 – 2008

Claire Bugen presented the following professional contracts for approval.

Betty Bounds  
Nicole Daneke  
Sarah Webb  
Beth McCrea  
Randal King  
Heather Keiler-Green  
Steve Baldwin  
Sheri Mize

Walt Camenisch shared his concerns regarding Randal King being approved as a High School math teacher when he is not highly qualified and his transcripts reflect he has performed poorly in math in college. Jeff Hall stated that was not highly qualified in math but could be if he takes the Math TEXes. Beatrice Burke asked if Randall could go to school to become highly qualified. Sha Cowan asked he could take classes. Claire Bugen said that we could pay for the classes out of Title II funds. Angie Wolf asked if parents are notified and Claire responded that parents are sent a letter within 30 days.

Walt Camenisch moves that we approve the contracts for Bounds, Daneke, Webb, McCrea, Green, Baldwin, Mize. Nancy Carrizales seconds. Motion passes.

Beatrice Burke moves that we approve the contract for Randall King with the stipulation that he attends special workshops related to improving his math teaching skills. Sha Cowan seconds. Motion passes.

Walt Camenisch moves that TSD actively seek out a highly qualified math teacher for the high school. Angie Wolf seconds. Motion passes.

### 7. Report on Repair/Rehabilitation of TSD Buildings and Facilities

Gary Bego shared that attached schedule lays out the Repair and Renovation projects TSD will be undertaking over the next two years. We are in the process of prioritizing the projects and attaching timelines to each of them. It is our intent to have the projects complete by the end of May 2009.

### 8. Report on Curriculum Writing

Claire Bugen shared that Connie Sefcik-Kennedy had requested that Stella Egbert, our Elementary Principal, make a presentation on our Language Arts program for those students who are beyond the Reading First Grant (4th and 5th grades). Stella presented a comprehensive look at Language Arts programming for fifth graders. The following principles of success were borrowed from the Reading First program for grades K-3; Reading First structure using assessments and monitoring, Reading First Harcourt materials, Vocabulary Development and the 90-minute focused block.

The curriculum focused on critical thinking skills both active reading skills and expository skills, literature, short stories, literary elements and composition and writing utilizing 6+1 Traits.



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Fifth grade teachers worked with Leslie Hussey on strengthening the 3-5 Language Arts program and participated in training at Region III. They also became involved in the Reading First Professional Development Sessions on the third Tuesdays of the month.

The board reviewed sample materials and asked questions about the impact on testing and assessment.

#### **9. Report on Positive Behavior Support Data from 2006 - 2007**

A comprehensive analysis of behavior from the 2006-2007 was presented utilizing the 425 PEIMS report of Disciplinary Action. Claire Bugen reported utilizing our 425 PEIMS Summary report of Disciplinary Action Data. These behaviors include a variety of reasons or precipitating events but all have resulted in some type of removal from class, ISS, OSS, DAEP or Expulsion. We analyzed the data by department/grade level by both number of students involved and number of incidents. We also looked at length of assignment for removal, repeating students, and the type of serious offenses, e.g. felony, contraband, alcohol, indecency, violation of the Code of Conduct while in DAEP, sexual assault and knives. In this category of behaviors TSD had only 8 incidents in 2006 and 17 in 2007. The 2007 increase was attributed to a large group of students who were caught in a single incident with contraband. Only the elementary department showed a significant decrease in the percentage of students involved in disciplinary incidents. Part of the reason for increase in days of removal related to the PEIMS requirement of reporting partial days in ISS. Claire explained that of the 488 students TSD served last year, only 137 students were involved in disciplinary incidents resulting in any kind of removal from class. We will continue to analyze our data and will target a reduction in time and removal from class.

#### **10. Superintendent Performance Goals for 2007 - 2008**

Claire Bugen developed the following Superintendent Performance Goals for 2007 – 2008 based on the input from the Board at the previous meeting:

1. Continue to implement Positive Behavior Support (PBS) with special attention to data collection and reporting.
2. Continue to improve student academic achievement. Consider the relationship between teacher quality (ability to provide engaged learning) and student achievement. Keep board informed on NWEA MAP assessments.
3. Ensure that the campus is clean, well maintained and safe.
4. Expand extracurricular activities with special attention to students not interested in Athletics.
5. Continue to work with TEA on revised MOU on Accountability and Accreditation.
6. Continue to work toward 100% Highly Qualified staff with reports to Board on breakdown of HQ in each department.
7. Work with residential staff to make dorm living more “desirable”.
8. Explore the idea of student uniforms to reduce peer pressure and behavior problems.



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Beatrice Burke moves that the board approve the Superintendent Performance Goals for 2007 – 2008. Seconded by Nancy Carrizales. Motion Passes.

### 11. Reports or Comments by Board Members

Connie Sefcik-Kennedy shared that TSD PTA has new officers and asked Claire to send it out. Claire thanked Connie and Lee Bullock for their role as officers on the PTA.

Sha Cowan shared she is impressed with the changes to the TSD website.

### 12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

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Connie Sefcik-Kennedy

Date

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Twyla Strickland

Date